

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An LNG carrier for transporting LNG from one location to another, comprising:
 - (a) a vaporizer on board an LNG carrier for vaporizing the LNG to a gaseous state;
 - (b) at least one heat exchanger at least partially submerged in water;
 - (c) an intermediate fluid circulating between said vaporizer and said heat exchanger;
and
 - (d) at least one pump for circulating said intermediate fluid.
2. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the submerged heat exchanger is attached to an exterior surface of the LNG carrier.
3. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the heat exchanger is integral with the LNG carrier hull.
4. A method for regasifying LNG while on board an LNG carrier comprising:
 - (a) circulating an intermediate fluid between a vaporizer on board an LNG carrier and a submerged heat exchanger;
 - (b) heating the LNG to a temperature above its vaporization temperature using heat energy carried by said intermediate fluid; and
 - (c) heating the intermediate fluid using heat energy supplied by the submerged heat exchanger.
5. The method of claim 4 in which the submerged heat exchanger is attached to the LNG carrier hull.
6. The method of claim 4 in which the submerged heat exchanger is integral with LNG carrier hull.

7. The method of claim 4, including:

- (a) connecting the LNG carrier to the submerged heat exchanger after the LNG carrier arrives at a terminal; and
- (b) disconnecting the LNG carrier from the submerged heat exchanger prior to the LNG carrier leaving the terminal.